

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 03978 222049Z

63

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 AID-20 FDRE-00

HEW-08 SCA-01 SCSE-00 SWF-02 USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 IO-14 FEA-02 SCI-06 EB-11 OMB-01 DRC-01 /147 W

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O 221946Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8084

INFO JCS

DIA

AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

COMUSARSO IMMEDIATE

COMUSAFSO IMMEDIATE

COMUSNAVSO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 3978

STATE PASS AID/PHA/FDRC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, HO

SUBJECT: HURRICANE FIFI - SITREP 8

REF: SITREP 7

1. GENERAL OSWALDO LOPEZ, HONDURAN CHIEF OF STATE, APPEARED
ON TELEVISION AND NATIONWIDE RADIO EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 21

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PAGE 02 TEGUCI 03978 222049Z

TO INFORM THE PEOPLE OF HONDURAS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS

TO DEAL WITH THE CATASTROPHE AND TO DESCRIBE THE NATURE OF THE HURRICANE DAMAGE.

2. HE SPOKE IN GENERAL TERMS ABOUT THE GREAT DAMAGE THAT HAD BEEN INFLICTED ON THE COUNTRY AND OF THE GREAT SYMPATHY THAT ALL HONDURAS FELT FOR COUNTRYMEN IN DISTRESS. HE SAID THAT IT ARRIVED AT A MOST UNFORTUNATE TIME, WHEN THE COUNTRY WAS ON THE VERGE OF OVERCOMING SO MANY OF ITS CHRONIC PROBLEMS. HE SAID THAT WHEREAS AUSTERITY HAD BEFORE BEEN OPTIONAL FOR HONDURANS, IT WAS NOW A NECESSARY PART OF LIFE FOR EACH AND EVERY CITIZEN.

3. HE TERMINATED THE SPEECH BY THANKING ALL OF THE DONOR NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES THAT HAD HELPED AND THAT WOULD BE HELPING.

4. COPEN BULLETING OF SEPTEMBER 21 DESCRIBES INITIAL U.S. RELIEF EFFORTS AND THANKS AMBASSADOR SANCHEZ AND THE SOUTHERN COMMAND. DURING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, ANOTHER BULLETIN STATED THAT ALL SALES OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS TO PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS IS BANNED. COPEN WILL DETERMINE WHICH STATIONS WILL BE OPEN FOR SUPPLYING THE RELIEF EFFORT. ONLY RELIEF AND MILITARY AGENCIES ASSOCIATED WITH COPEN WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR GASOLINE.

5. DAST TEAMS PREPARED COMBINED REPORT ON DISASTER AREAS. REPORT INDICATED THAT PUERTO CORTES HAS ABUNDANT POTABLE WATER SUPPLY AND THAT CAPABILITY TO PUMP WATER EXCEEDS NEED. THERE ARE TWO SMALL BOATS AVAILABLE FOR RESCUE OPERATIONS. COASTAL AREA LA CEIBA - TRUJILLO - PUERTO LEMPIRA APPEARS TO HAVE RETURNED TO NORMAL. A 17-FOOT BOSTON WHALER BELONGING TO STANDARD FRUIT IS AVAILABLE FOR RESCUE OPERATIONS. PEOPLE CONTINUE TO BE STRANDED ON ROOF TOPS AND HIGH GROUND FROM ISLETA TO COROCITO IN AGUAN VALLEY.

6. HIGH WINDS DESTROYED MANY DWELLINGS IN BAY ISLANDS AND THERE ARE A NUMBER OF LOST BOATS. THERE WILL BE A NEED FOR FOOD AND CLOTHING IN NEAR FUTURE EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE ADEQUATE SUPPLIES AT PRESENT. GUANAJA ISLAND AIRPORT IN WORKING ORDER. THERE ARE NO REPORTED CASUALTIES BUT APPROXIMATELY 50 PERCENT OF HOMES DESTROYED.

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PAGE 03 TEGUCI 03978 222049Z

7. MILGP OFFICERS AT LA MESA AIRPORT OUTSIDE SAN PEDRO SULA NOTED ARRIVAL OF CUBAN, COLUMBIAN, COSTA RICAN AND VENEZUELAN PLANES ON MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 22. ALL PLANES CARRYING RELIEF SUPPLIES AND CUBAN AND COSTA RICAN PLANES BROUGHT NURSES. CUBAN PLANE IS 4 ENGINE (PROPELLER) ILYUSHIN. RADIO REPORTS STATE THAT MEXICO HAS PROMISED TO SEND RELIEF SUPPLIES. MISSION ALSO UNDERSTANDS THAT NICARAGUAN PLANE ENROUTE

WITH MEDICAL TEAM.
SANCHEZ

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